6/S MED. INTEL.

HEALTH
E 15 JUL 42
C.R. 27

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH

OF THE

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN

FOR THE YEAR 1941.

--- oOo ---

HENRY WHITEHEAD, M.D., D.P.H. (Vict), M.B., B.S. (Lond)
Medical Officer of Health, Chief Tuberculosis Officer, Superintendent School Medical Officer, Medical Supt., of Corporation Hospitals, etc.....

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Public Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Library Street,
W I G A N.

July, 1942.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the County Borough of Wigan.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the health of the Borough, and on the work of the Health Department for the year 1941.

The birth rate is higher than in 1940 being 17.44, against 16.62, and considerably higher than the average for the whole country.

The general death rate of 13.72 is lower than last year's rate of 15.81.

Infant Mortality is 95 which is much higher than the average for the country (see note on page 3).

Maternal Mortality is 2.11, which is much lower than the average for the last 5 years.

The death rate from pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis is .78 per thousand of the population, a slight fall on the figure for 1940 which was .80.

The Municipal Midwifery service is working satisfactorily and the average number of cases conducted by each midwife was 79. They are expected to deal with approximately 80 cases each per year.

Diphtheria was less prevalent in the borough than last year, and 193 cases were notified; in 1940, 235 notifications were received. Many efforts have been made to encourage parents to have their children inoculated against the disease; the response has been more encouraging. During the year 1941 2876 children were inoculated, making a total of 4994.

Measles was very prevalent during the year. 1102 cases were notified, and there were only 3 deaths.

It is again my privilege to record my thanks to all the members of my staff both in the Health Department, School Medical Service, and Hospitals for their loyalty and excellent work. They have continued to carry out a large amount of extra work in connection with the emergency casualty services.

My thanks are also due to the Chairman of the Health Committee (Mr. Alderman T. Ramsden), the Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee (Councillor Mrs. Ashurst), and also the Chairman of the Insanitary Houses and Conversions Committee (Mr. Councillor W. Shaw) for their continued co-operation, confidence and support. I thank also the members of the Committee under whom I serve for their continued courtesy and consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

HENRY WHITEHEAD.

VITAL STATISTICS, 1940 - 1941.

	1940	1941
Population estimated July 1st.	80,360	80,380
Births - Males 727, Females 675 } Total	1,336	1,402
Annual rate of births per 1,000 on Registrar General's estimated population..	16.62	17.44
Ditto for England and Wales.	14.60	14.20
Ditto, 126 County Boroughs and great towns ...	16.00	14.70
Illegitimate births number 49 or .61 per 1,000 of population, a percentage of..	3.29	3.49
Deaths - Males 583, Females 520 } Total	1,271	1,103
Corrected Death-rate, on Registrar General's estimated population.	15.81	13.72
Ditto in England and Wales..	14.30	12.90
Death-rate in 126 County Boroughs and great towns...	15.80	14.90
Excess of registered births over deaths. ...	65	299
Maternal death-rate...	4.47	2.11
Total deaths from seven principal Zymotic Diseases.	23	27
Annual rate of mortality from seven principal Zymotic Diseases	.28	.33
Total deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years	5	5
Death-rate (per 1,000 births) from Diarrhoea and Enteritis.	3.74	3.52
Infantile-rate (deaths per 1,000 births) ...	74	95
ditto for England and Wales	55	59
ditto for 126 County Boroughs and great towns.	61	71
Deaths of infants under one day old (number)..	15	25
ditto one year (legitimate).	97	132
ditto one year (illegitimate).	3	3

Births - The number of births registered during 1941 is 1402 (males 727, females 675, the rate per 1,000 of the population being 17.44. The birth rate compared with 1940 is 1.12 higher. The illegitimate births number 49 or 3.49 per cent.

Stillbirths - The following shows the number of stillbirths registered during the year 1941:-

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate...	36	32	68
Illegitimate.	2	3	5
	38	35	73.

The Mortality Rate - The deaths for 1941 number 1,103 (males 583, females 520), being an excess of 63 males over females. The recorded rate per 1,000 of the population per annum is 13.72; in 1940, 15.81 The decrease in the number of deaths as compared with 1940 was 168 - and the rate 2.09 per 1,000.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Births -	(Legitimate)	1,353	699	654	(Birth rate per 1,000 population 17.44
	(Illegitimate)	49	28	21	
		1,402	727	675	
Deaths -		1,103	583	520	(Death rate per 1,000 population 13.72

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child-birth:- Sepsis 1, Other Causes 2.

Mortality of women in, or associated with child-birth per 1,000 births (live and still) :-

Puerperal Sepsis	.70	
Other Puerperal causes	1.41	
Total Puerperal mortality		2.11
Non-Puerperal causes		-
Total Maternal Mortality		2.11

The 3 deaths occurred in a Public Institution outside the Borough.

Infant Mortality: (i.e. death rate under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :-

Total Births 1402. Total Deaths 135. Infant Mortality 95.
Legitimate Births 1353. Deaths under 1 yr. 132. Death Rate 96.
Illegitimate " 49. " " " " 3. " " 61.

Of the 135 deaths, 25 died under 1 day, 54 under 1 week, and 73 under 1 month.

38 died in Institutions and 97 died at home.

The three main causes of death were:- Premature birth 36, Congenital Malformations 37 and Pneumonia 30.

Of the total births namely 1402, 1116 were confined at home and 286 elsewhere. The neo-natal mortality, i.e. deaths under 1 month per 1,000 births in these two groups were (1) confined at home 46, (2) elsewhere 74.

INQUESTS and UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

85 inquests were held in Wigan during 1941, as against 82 in 1940, and 67 in 1939. The following verdicts were recorded :-

Natural causes.	- 3
Accidents.	- Burns 6, Scalds 2, Colliery 4, Falls 7, Drowned 4, Railway 2, Falls downstairs 2, Street 24, others 17.
Suicides.	- Poison 1, Hanging 2, Cut throat 3.
Other causes.	- 6.
Murder.	- 2.

One uncertified death was registered as against none in 1940, and one in 1939.

The Zymotic rate, .33, is made up as follows :-
Diphtheria - deaths 14, rate .17; Diarrhoea - deaths 5, rate .06;
Scarlet Fever - deaths 1, rate .01; Measles - deaths 3, rate .04;
Whooping Cough - deaths 4, rate .05.

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS SINCE YEAR 1876

Year.	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Zymotic Death Rate	Infant Mortality.
1876	48.90	28.50	4.92	186
1886	38.70	22.10	3.10	174
1896	35.90	23.09	4.09	186
1906	32.60	17.61	2.61	160
1916	23.28	15.42	1.04	113
1926	20.03	13.13	.30	103
1936	17.23	12.78	.42	82
1941	17.44	13.72	.33	95

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

The Clerk to the Public Assistance Committee has kindly suppled me with the following information :-

Year Ending.	Average No. of families receiving relief.	Amount paid in relief.
31st March 1942	538	£ 28,893
31st March 1941	899	£ 37,212

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S SHORT LIST OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1941.

CAUSES.	Sex	All Ages	0-	1-	5-	15-	45-	65-
All Causes..	M	583	75	25	7	78	161	237
	F	520	60	16	14	66	140	224
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Cerebro Spinal Fever	M	2	-	1	-	-	1	-
	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever.	M	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	M	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
	F	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria.	M	7	-	4	3	-	-	-
	F	7	-	1	6	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	M	24	-	-	-	17	6	1
	F	25	-	-	1	20	4	-
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	M	9	1	2	1	3	2	-
	F	5	-	-	2	2	1	-
8. Syphilitic Disease.	M	4	-	-	-	2	2	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
9. Influenza	M	13	1	-	-	4	5	3
	F	7	-	-	-	2	3	2
10. Measles.	M	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis..	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
13M Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus.	M	8	-	-	-	1	1	6
13F Cancer of Uterus...	F	11	-	-	-	2	5	4
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum.	M	24	-	-	-	3	15	6
	F	17	-	-	-	3	8	6
15. Cancer of Breast...	F	8	-	-	-	2	3	3
16. Cancer of all other sites. ...	M	25	-	1	-	-	13	11
	F	29	-	-	-	1	14	14
17. Diabetes	M	5	-	-	-	1	1	3
	F	10	-	-	-	-	6	4
18. Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions.	M	53	-	-	-	-	14	39
	F	45	-	-	-	2	14	29
19. Heart Disease.	M	102	-	-	-	7	25	70
	F	80	-	-	-	6	29	45
20. Other Circulatory Diseases. ...	M	7	-	-	-	1	1	5
	F	3	-	-	-	-	1	2
21. Bronchitis...	M	60	3	1	-	5	29	22
	F	47	3	2	-	5	12	25
22. Pneumonia....	M	47	21	7	-	5	11	3
	F	38	9	6	3	5	5	10
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	M	7	1	-	-	1	5	-
	F	4	-	-	-	-	2	2
24. Ulceration of Stomach or Duodenum.	M	7	-	-	-	4	2	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years). ...	M	5	5	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis.	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
27. Other Digestive Diseases. ...	M	11	1	-	-	2	3	5
	F	16	2	1	1	1	5	6
28. Nephritis	M	8	-	-	-	-	2	6
	F	22	-	1	-	4	12	5
29. Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
30. Other Maternal Causes	F	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
31. Premature Birth	M	17	17	-	-	-	-	-
	F	19	19	-	-	-	-	-
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease ...	M	19	19	-	-	-	-	-
	F	19	18	-	-	1	-	-
33. Suicide	M	4	-	-	-	1	3	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents... ...	M	14	-	2	1	3	4	4
	F	6	-	1	1	-	2	2
35. Other Violent Causes.	M	27	-	3	1	10	8	5
	F	10	2	2	-	1	1	4
36. All Other Causes...	M	68	4	2	-	7	8	47
	F	79	4	1	-	5	11	58

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Samples of water are taken monthly from each of the four supplies, and submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis. They have been consistently reported as satisfactory. The samples are obtained from service taps in various houses situate in many parts of the town. Other samples are taken as required at various places on the Worthington and Edgewood Watersheds.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Douglas and streams running into it are the natural means of draining the Borough.

The Douglas Catchment Board control the river. They have carried out many improvements and also cleanse the bed of the river when required.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE, SCAVENGING and REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Practically the whole of the Borough is sewered and drained. House refuse is regularly collected and disposed of by destructors and tipping. The streets are regularly scavenged.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Almost the whole of the closet accommodation is on the water carriage system. The number of water closets on March 31st, 1942, was 26,618; in addition there are 100 waste water closets, 51 pail closets and 39 privy middens. The pail closets and privy middens are in connection with unfit houses or isolated farms with cottages adjoining. During the year 12 water closets were substituted for 13 pail closets.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Mr. F. Martlew, Chief Sanitary Inspector, submits the following remarks.

The town is divided into five districts. A District Sanitary Inspector is responsible to the Chief Sanitary Inspector for the constant supervision of each district. In addition, Inspectors specialise in the control of factories, workshops, including bake-houses, shops and offices.

Houses and premises inspected and visited re nuisances and complaints...	2308
Re-visits to nuisances...	5884
Other visits made..	1589
Visits to premises (testing of drainage)...	155
Nuisances discovered	3071
Nuisances abated...	3596
Notices issued (preliminary)...	807
" " (formal)...	342
Letters issued re nuisances ...	743

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

In consequence of certain instructions contained in Circular 134/1940, issued by the Ministry of Home Security, it was not deemed necessary to take any smoke observations.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES AND HOUSES-LET-IN LODGINGS.

These premises are visited regularly and were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. 563 visits were made to the 8 Common Lodging Houses in the Borough with accommodation for 380 lodgers. 98 visits were made to the 6 Houses let in Lodgings.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Offensive trades are carried on at seven premises. They consist of 1 fellmonger, 1 fat boiler, 3 gut scrapers, 1 gut-scraper and fat boiler, 1 tripe boiler. 35 visits were made to these premises.

CANAL BOATS - Public Health Act, 1936.

As far as can be ascertained 28 Canal Boats registered in Wigan are still in use. 31 Inspections were made during the year. 1 notice was served and complied with, and 13 letters were addressed to the owners.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are 405 factories in the Borough; 274 of these have mechanical power. 64 contraventions of the Act were discovered during the year: they were as follows :- Lack of cleanliness 21; Defective sanitary accommodation 34; Unsuitable exits or escapes in case of fire 5; Ineffective drainage of floors 1; Insufficient sanitary accommodation 1; Absence of Factory Abstract displayed 1. Total number of Contraventions 64. All the foregoing contraventions under the Act were remedied informally. It was necessary on one occasion only to forward a letter to the management of the firm concerned re contraventions under the Act.

SHOPS ACT 1912 - 1936.

Number of shops on register 1,622. The following visits and observations were made - day 168, employment of young persons 12; Total 180. Contraventions discovered:- not exhibiting statutory Notices within premises 4; defective sanitary accommodation 2; insufficient washing facilities 2; insufficient ventilation 2; insufficient facilities for maintaining reasonable temperature 7; unclean condition of premises 2; other defects 1; letters sent out 13.

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933.

48 premises are registered for the sale of poisons. 10 visits were made to premises.

PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT.

There are 26 places of entertainment within the Borough, each one is inspected periodically and reports are made on their sanitary condition before the renewal of licences.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Mr. E. Richardson, who devotes a portion of his time as administrative officer under the above Act, reports that during the year 266 visits were made to 82 premises found to be infested with rats or mice; 63 of these were reported to be free of these rodents. During Rat Week baits were distributed to persons in occupation of infested premises.

HOUSING.

The number of dwellings at the 1931 census was 18,573. The number of families was 20,190 or 1,617 more than dwellings. The population at the 1931 census was 85,357, and the estimated population on 1st July, was 80,380.

During the year 7 houses were erected by private enterprise. Since January 1st, 1921, 2592 houses have been erected by private enterprise and 2570 by the local authority, total 5162. During the period 1931-1941 approximately 1,562 dwellings have been demolished or ceased to be used for habitation. During the year 2,259 dwellinghouses were inspected for defects under the Public Health or Housing Acts, of these 2171 were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925; the total inspections and re-inspections made were 8,252; 1,873 were not reasonably fit for habitation. 1,405 houses were rendered fit in consequence of informal action; 361 houses were rendered fit after the service of formal notices. 15 houses were demolished after formal action under the Housing Acts.

Overcrowding.

Many evacuees, and others have come into the town since hostilities commenced, with the result that, at the time of writing this report practically every available dwelling is occupied and many houses by more than one family. It is impossible to give any reliable figures as regards overcrowding and only a

limited number of cases of overcrowding have been relieved during the year. To relieve this situation a few houses on which Demolition Orders have been made or Undertakings given that the houses would not be used as dwellings in future were allowed on licence to be used as dwellings for limited periods.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The number of persons registered under the above enactments are as follows :-

Dairymen - premises within the Borough 78, premises outside the Borough 10, total 88. Wholesale dealers 18, producers 26.

Approximately 270 milch cows are kept in the Borough and the cowsheds are kept in a satisfactory condition. Number of visits to cowsheds 119, to dairies 147, and milkshops 49.

Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.

Number of licences issued for the sale of pasteurised milk 40. " " " " " " " " and production of pasteurised milk 4, number of licences issued for the sale of Accredited milk 10, number of persons licensed for the sale and production of Accredited Milk 3, number of licences issued for the sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk 6.

During the year 204 samples of milk were taken for the purpose of testing the amount of foreign matter contained in milk intended for sale in the Borough. These samples were obtained at dairies. In 8 cases letters were addressed to producers outside the Borough regarding the unsatisfactory condition of the milk.

REGISTRATION OF ICE CREAM MANUFACTURERS AND PREMISES.

The Wigan Corporation Act 1933, Section 34, contained powers for the compulsory registration of Ice Cream Manufacturers, Vendors and Premises. At the end of 1941 13 premises were registered for the manufacture of Ice Cream, and in addition 18 vendors were registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS OF MILK.

26 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination and/or the methylene blue reduction test. 10 were below a reasonable standard, which is a much higher proportion than in any previous year.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector and five District Inspectors are all qualified Meat Inspectors. There are within the Borough 12 licensed slaughter houses. District Inspectors examine carcases slaughtered within their own districts.

Owing to Food Control only 6 of the above premises are being used for slaughtering.

Premises which come within the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, are frequently visited. A large proportion of condemned meat is sent to a fat melters for manufacturing purposes. The remainder is dealt with at the Cleansing Depot, Frog Lane.

The firm receiving this condemned meat has signed an undertaking that it will only be used for manufacturing purposes and they regularly return special schedules of the quantities received. Shops, stores and vehicles are constantly inspected.

Registration of Purveyors of Meat and Premises.

The Wigan Corporation Act, 1933, Section 36, contained powers for the compulsory registration of purveyors of meat and premises which are used or proposed to be used for the sale of meat. The number of premises registered at the end of 1941 was 98.

Private Slaughter Houses in Use in the Area.

	On 31st December 1920.	On 31st December 1941.
Registered...	24	-
Licensed.....	1	12
	25	12

No. of visits to slaughterhouses...	2760
" " " " markets.	442
" " " " butchers and other food shops.	1176
" " certificates issued (condemned food) ...	303

Carcases examined during the year 1941.

	Beasts.	Calves.	Pigs.	Sheep.	TOTAL.
Carcases examined	5704	2043	8690	22148	38585
Carcases totally condemned...	54	16	10	17	97
Percentage totally condemned.	0.94	0.78	0.11	0.08	0.25

The following meat and offal from slaughterhouses was surrendered and destroyed, or sold for manufacturing purposes, during the year 1941 :-

	Whole carcase and all offal condemned.	Part of carcase condemned.	Offal Condemned.									
			Heads.	Lungs.	Livers.	Hearts.	Stomachs.	Spleens.	Kidneys.	Udders.	Mesenteries.	Skirts.
Affected with Tuberculosis.												
Beasts	46	30	420	1663	223	31	188	6	90	19	386	281
Calves	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pigs	8	9	352	277	191	172	40	13	8	-	44	3
Sheep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Affected with other disease etc.												
Beasts	8	6	4	414	1533	9	3	-	80	222	-	1
Calves	14	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pigs	2	7	2	451	139	96	3	-	18	1	-	-
Sheep	17	2	3	26	244	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	97	54	782	2833	2333	309	235	19	196	242	430	285

Included in the above were 21 carcases dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

OTHER FOOD.

A large wholesale business in fish and other foodstuffs is carried on in and around the markets, and these premises are visited daily.

Summary of other foodstuffs condemned 1941.

Meat and Meat Products...	821 lbs.
No. of pachages of wet fish...	105
No. of packages of dried fish.	114
No. of rabbits, fowl and game.	2842
No. of packages of fruit and vegetables...	4763
No. of packages of canned foods	2036
No. of eggs.	9087
Margarine....	4 lb.
Cakes..	648
Dried Fruit.	90 lb.
Cheese.	95 lb.
No. of packages of other foods.	50

Fried Fish Shops.

80 premises in the Borough used for the purpose of fish frying, all of which were kept under observation.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1938.

259 samples obtained under the above Act were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. Samples were as follows:-

Milk 203; Butter 4; Margarine 4; Lard 4; Cheese 4; Tea 4; Coffee 7; Coffee and Chicory 2; Jam 4; Sausage 8; Fish and Meat Paste 5; Canned Vegetables 5; Pepper 2; Gravy Browning 1; Lemon Substitute 1; Whisky 1.

79 samples of Milk and 1 of sausage were reported as adulterated - remainder were genuine.

Report on Samples reported to be Adulterated or Below Standard.

During the year, the Borough Analyst reported that 79 samples of milk were below the standard fixed. Of these, 45 were formal samples and 34 were informal samples. 54 of the 79 samples were adulterated milks, the remaining 25 being genuine, as proved by the freezing test (Hortvet) although milks of abnormal quality. Of the 54 adulterated milks 30 were formal samples.

Legal proceedings were instituted in 20 cases, and a conviction obtained in every case.

In 3 cases fines of £10 each were imposed.
" 11 " " " £ 5 " " "
" 5 " " " £ 2 " " "
" 1 case a fine of £ 1 was imposed.

Warning letters were sent in other cases.

One informal sample of sausage contained a small quantity of undeclared sulphur dioxide. A formal sample taken 9 days later from the same source was reported to be genuine.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT 1926.

5 samples of Feeding Stuffs and 7 samples of Fertilisers were taken and submitted to the Agricultural Analyst. With the exception of one sample of Fertiliser which was reported to contain 1% more nitrogen than stated on statutory statement all the samples complied with the requirements of the above Act.

CHEMICAL WORK.

The Public Analyst has the honour to report as follows upon the duties of his office during the 12 months ending 31st December, 1941 :-

Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

During the above period, 259 samples of food etc. were examined, consisting of 203 milks, nine coffees, (including 2 coffee and chicory), eight sausages, five tinned vegetables, four each of meat etc. paste, margarine, tea, cheese, lard, butter and jam, two peppers and one each of beef and vegetable extract, gravy browning, lemon substitute and whisky.

Of these samples, as large a number as 79 samples (78 of which were milks) were reported against, representing 30.5% recorded as either adulterated or else failing to comply with official Regulations.

49 contained Extraneous Water from 2.5 to 40%.
18 were of abnormal composition, being deficient in non-fatty solids but otherwise genuine.
6 were deficient in fat, in extent varying from 4 to 11.6%.
5 were deficient in both fat and non-fatty solids, but otherwise were genuine.

Although this experience of an abnormally high percentage adulteration is unique in the annals of Wigan, it must not be supposed that such malpractice has been widespread, since it appears that, throughout the period, some fifteen offenders only were concerned and it no doubt followed that the publicity

given to the legal proceedings which were taken had a deterrent effect.

One pleasing feature - despite transport and other difficulties, particularly during the warmer months of the year - was the absence throughout of preservative agents and, also, colouring matter.

One sample of sausages contravened the Public Health (preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations in that it contained, without declaration, 54 p.p.m. of Sulphur dioxide preservative.

The remaining foods (mostly of the grocery type) were of good commercial quality and call for no comment.

Fertilisers & Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.

Seven samples of fertiliser and five feeding-stuffs were analysed during the year. Of the former, one contained a slight excess of Nitrogen and three of the feeding-stuffs contained, after making due allowance (Limits of Variation) slight discrepancies in Oil content from the declaration in the Statutory Statement.

Water Supply.

During the year, some fifty samples drawn from different parts of the Borough were analysed and, although the several supplies are subject to some slight variation in mineral constitution (including degree of hardness), the accustomed degree of organic purity has been maintained.

(Signed). S. ERNEST MELLING,
Public Analyst.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER.

During the year 50 samples of water obtained from service taps in the various parts of the Borough were sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester for Bacteriological Examination. 49 were reported B. Coli not found in 100 cc and 1 - B Coli not found in 10 cc. 8 other samples were collected from streams, in the gathering grounds, reservoirs and storage tanks prior to chlorination.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Vaccinations.

Vaccination of children whose births were registered during the year 1941.

Births registered 1,158; successful vaccinations 113; statutory declaration of conscientious objection 815; died unvaccinated 62; postponement by medical certificate 4; removal to other districts (vaccination officers duly apprised) 9; removal to places unknown, or cannot be traced 9; number of these births remaining on the 31st January 1942, not entered in vaccination register nor temporarily accounted for in the report book 136; Total number of certificates and copies of certificates of successful primary vaccinations received during calendar year 106; number of statutory declarations of conscientious objections received by vaccination officers irrespective of the dates of birth of children to which they relate during the calendar year 704.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Bedding and clothing from houses in which Infectious Diseases have occurred are dealt with by a high pressure disinfector as also is similar material from houses infested with vermin. Prior to removal to Council houses furniture from houses infested with vermin is treated in the Local Authority's furniture van by means of cyanide gas by a firm of contractors who specialise in this work. Furniture owned by 5 families was treated by this process during the year. In certain instances bedding which was unfit for further use was destroyed. Supplies of vermicide are issued along with the loan of suitable sprays for the treatment of infested houses.

Disinfectants are provided free to the occupiers of houses where infectious diseases occur and in other cases of exceptional circumstances.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1941.

Name of District - Wigan County Borough.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified. At Ages - Years.													Total Cases notified in each locality (e.g., Parish or Ward) of the district.													
	At all ages	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and over	St. George. 1	Lindsay. 2	St. Cath. 3	St. Patrick. 4	St. Thomas. 5	Poolstock. 6	Victoria. 7	St. Andrew. 8	Swinley. 9	All Saints. 10	West Pemb. 11	North Pemb. 12	Central Pemb. 13	South Pemb. 14
Smallpox...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	109	1	3	1	7	6	58	21	7	4	1	-	-	1	3	8	13	5	2	1	24	28	2	3	8	10	1
Enteric Fever	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	3	-	-
Diphtheria (including Membraneous Group)...	193	1	3	6	9	20	70	39	33	10	1	1	-	8	19	23	12	5	7	11	29	8	2	4	24	28	13
Pneumonia...	164	20	8	21	10	6	29	13	14	14	8	17	4	2	4	4	7	6	3	12	23	18	5	6	19	33	22
Influenzal Pneumonia...	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chickenpox...	380	10	21	26	19	26	252	26	-	-	-	-	-	6	7	4	14	14	48	20	102	15	8	15	14	91	22
Erysipelas...	27	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	14	7	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	6	6	-	1	6	3	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	61	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	9	24	11	10	3	2	-	4	3	6	7	3	9	5	-	1	6	8	7
Other forms of Tuberculosis..	46	-	-	4	1	5	7	7	6	8	1	6	1	1	1	4	4	1	3	3	6	4	2	2	5	8	2
Measles	1102	57	78	111	116	117	541	62	10	7	2	1	-	38	37	29	68	12	13	34	264	134	22	20	119	223	89
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	-
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	22	1	1	2	1	5	-	1	5	3	2	1	-	1	-	1	2	-	2	-	6	1	1	1	1	2	4
Dysentery..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough... ...	197	9	27	28	30	27	72	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	3	2	-	7	8	48	36	1	16	15	30	24
TOTALS	2318	102	142	199	194	212	1032	174	86	76	30	55	15	61	79	80	125	49	93	92	520	258	43	70	221	440	186

Hospital for Acute Infectious Cases, Whelley.

This Institution contains 76 beds. The Medical Officer of Health personally attends the patients. The majority of cases admitted are from the Borough of Wigan, but a number are sent in from surrounding districts.

	Notifications.	Removed to Whelley Hospital. Patients		Died in Whelley Hospital. Patients	
		Wigan	Out-dist.	Wigan	Out-dist
Smallpox.	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever..	109	21	8	-	-
Enteric Fever..	6	6	3	-	-
Diphtheria & Memb. Group...	193	188	23	13	2
Pneumonia.	164	-	1	-	1
Influenzal Pneumonia. ...	5	-	-	-	-
Chicken-pox	380	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	27	3	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	61	-	-	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	46	2	-	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	-	-	-	-	-
Measles..	1102	1	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.. ...	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	-	-	-	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis..	22	23	13	4	1
Dysentery.	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough.	197	-	-	-	-
Others...	-	2	-	-	-
TOTALS	2318	246	48	18	4

Whelley Hospital.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet.	Enteric.	Others.	Total.
In-patients, 1st. January, 1941	31	1	1	-	33
Admitted in 1941.	210	29	9	44	292
Discharged in 1941	211	25	10	34	280
Died in 1941	14	-	-	6	20
In-patients, 1st January, 1942	16	5	-	4	25

LABORATORY WORK.

The following specimens were submitted for examination during 1941 :-

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Swabs for Diphtheria... ...	215	797	1012
Widal Tests for Enteric. ...	11	3	14
Faeces and urine for Enteric.	1	22	23
Cerebro Spinal Fluid... ...	8	7	15
Naso-pharyngeal swabs.. ...	-	4	4
Wasserman Tests for V.D. ...	190	1107	1297
Kahn's Test.	-	3	3
Tests for gonococci	-	11	11
Milk (Bacteria Count).. ...			21
Milk for B. Coli..			26
Milk for Methylene Blue Test.			5
Water (Bacteriological) ...			58
Water (Chemical)			54
Food and Drugs Samples. ...			259
Total Examinations.			2802

Compensation Claims and Medical Examinations.

The Medical Officer of Health examined 145 Corporation employees during the year 1941. The number of persons examined under the Workmen's Compensation Acts is very high, owing to the establishment of a Works Department.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Artificial Pneumothorax.

During 1941 Artificial Pneumothorax treatment was performed in 6 new cases. 534 refills were carried out in these and other cases.

Hospital for Treatment of Tuberculosis, Pemberton.

The following table shows the number of cases admitted to Pemberton Hospital during the year :-

	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.
Borough Cases...	20	32	4	56
County Cases ...	2	4	-	6
TOTALS	22	36	4	62

After-Care.

During the year 1941 103 patients received free milk from the After Care Committee. Of these 17 were new recommendations and 26 were removed from the list due to commencing work and other causes. The average number of persons in receipt of milk was 76. 28 persons received new clothing from the Committee.

Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

Summary of Notifications during the period from the 1st January 1941 to the 31st December, 1941.

Number of Primary Notifications of New Cases of Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total (all ages)
Pulmonary Males.	-	-	1	-	4	7	4	6	6	1	1	30
" Females.	-	-	1	1	6	5	11	3	-	2	1	30
Non-Pulmonary Males	-	7	3	3	1	1	1	-	4	-	1	21
" " Females	-	3	4	4	4	4	3	-	3	-	-	25

Supplemental Return.

New cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the above-mentioned period, otherwise than by Formal Notification.

Age Periods.	0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total (all ages)
Pulmonary Males	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	1	6
" Females.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	3
Non-Pulmonary Males.	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Females.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

The source or sources from which Information as to the above-mentioned cases was obtained is stated below:-

Source of Information.	No. of cases. Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Death Returns - from Local Registrars.	3	3
Transferable deaths from Registrar General...	2	1
Posthumous Notifications..	2	-
Transfers from other areas (other than Transferable deaths)....	2	-
Other sources, if any	-	-

Return Showing the Work of the Dispensary during the Year 1941.

Diagnosis.	Pulmonary. Adults.		Pulmonary. Children		Non-Pulonary Adults		Non-Pulonary Children		Total. Adults		Total. Children		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
A.-New Cases examined during the year (excluding contacts).....													
(a) Definitely Tuberculous..	26	25	1	-	9	11	12	12	35	36	13	12	96
(b) Diagnosis not completed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	2	4	16
(c) Non-Tuberculous..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	91	32	16	9	148
B.- Contacts examined during the year.....													
(a) Definitely Tuberculous..	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
(b) Diagnosis not completed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Non-Tuberculous..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	7	19
C.- Cases written off the Dispensary Register as.....													
(a) Recovered....	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1	4
(b) Non-Tuberculous (including any such cases previously diagnosed and entered on the Dispensary Register as Tuberculous....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95	42	23	19	179
D.- No. of persons on Dispensary Register on Dec.31st.													
(a) Definitely Tuberculous..	108	115	8	3	53	54	73	57	161	169	81	60	471
(b) Diagnosis not completed....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	2	4	16

1. Number of cases on Dispensary Register on January 1st..... 470
2. Number of cases transferred from other areas and cases returned after discharge under Head 3 in previous years. 6
3. Number of cases transferred to other areas, cases not desiring further assistance under the scheme, and cases lost sight of..... 42
4. Cases written off during the year as Dead (all causes).... 45
5. Number of attendances at the Dispensary (including contacts) 3105
6. Number of Insured Persons under Domiciliary Treatment on the 31st December..... 52
7. Number of consultations with Medical Practitioners:-
   (a) Personal.. 62
   (b) Others.... 256
8. Number of visits by Tuberculosis Officer to homes (including personal consultation)..... 91
9. Number of visits by Nurses or Health Visitors to homes for Dispensary purposes.....3409
10. Number of (a) Specimens of sputum etc., examined..... 332
    (b) X-ray examinations made in connection with Dispensary work..... 306
11. Number of "Recovered" cases restored to Dispensary Register, and included in A (a), and A (b) above..... none
12. Number of "T.B. plus" cases on Dispensary Register on December 31st..... 130

Results of Sunlight Treatment, 1941.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.

	Under Treatment 1.1.41.	New Cases	Discharged. Much Improved	Improved	Stationary	Ceased to Attend	Under Treatment 31.12.40
T.B.Glands.....	6	17	9	1	-	3	10
Lupus.....	3	-	1	-	-	1	1
Bones and Joints	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
T.B.Abdomen.....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	9	18	10	1	-	5	11

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Venereal Diseases are treated at a Special Clinic at the Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary. The figures below show the work done in 1941:

	Borough. 1940.	Borough. 1941	County. 1940.	County. 1941.	Others. 1940.	Others. 1941
(a) Number of persons from each area dealt with during the year at or in connection with the Out-Patient Clinic for the first time and found to be suffering from :-						
Syphilis	10	26	15	30	-	-
Soft Chancre	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gonorrhoea..	57	55	73	79	-	4
Conditions other than Venereal	31	52	61	67	1	1
Totals.	98	133	149	176	1	5
(b) Total number of attendances of all patients residing in each area	3603	4318	5040	5613	7	35

Figures for the Past Five Years.

	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.
New cases...	237	260	265	248	314
Total attendances at V.D.Clinic	11184	11610	9781	8650	9966
In-patient days...	198	134	124	53	22

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Attendances at Clinics:-	1940.	1941.
Babies...	10737	9369
Primary visits of babies...	1201	1162
Expectant mothers weekly clinic - Central	1102	1307
Special Clinic	88	107
Pemberton Clinic	488	581
Maternal Mortality:-		
Deaths....	6	3
Rate	4.47	2.11
Births...	1336	1402
Visits paid to expectant mothers by Health Visitors.	620	381

Dental Treatment.

The following table shows the Dental work carried out during the year 1941 in connection with the Maternity and Child Welfare Department:-

Babies Treated.	Dressing etc.	Extractions.	Fillings	Mothers Treated	Extractions.	Fillings.	Scaling etc.	Dentures
30	18	15	5	51	65	4	27	2

Children's Act.

On the 1st January 1941 there were thirteen nursed out children on the register. On the 31st December 1941 there were nine on the register. The Health Visitors who are also Infant Life Protection Visitors paid 108 visits to premises where children were being nursed out. There were no complaints.

Ante-natal Work.

	Wigan Centre. Weekly Clinic	Wigan Centre. Special Clinic	Pemberton Clinic
Number of cases attending Clinic during yr.	452	89	174
Total number of attendances... ...	1307	107	581
Cases referred to St.Mary's Hospital.	-	14	-
Cases admitted to St.Mary's Hospital.	-	13	-

The table of infant mortality for 1941 shows that over half of the deaths under one year occurred in the first four weeks of life - 73 of the total 135. Over one third were under one week old - 54 of the total 135. Of the 73 deaths under one month old 32 were due to premature birth.

Summary of the Visits paid by the Health Visitors during 1941.

No. of primary visits to births	1445
" " visits to infants under one year..	4714
" " " " " over one year and under two years.	3763
" " " " " over two and under three years ...	3231
" " " " " over three and under four years...	2674
" " " " " over four and under five years ...	2746
" " " " expectant mothers.	381
" " " " cases of abortion.	27
" " " " cases of Measles..	310
" " " " " " Pneumonia, etc.	45
" " " " " " Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
" " " re deaths under one year...	104
" " " " still births	64
" " " " Midwives	374
" " other visits	827

Schools for Mothers.

213 classes were held during the year 1941, and 1505 attendances were made by mothers.

The following table shows particulars of Notifications of Births received, which were notified by Doctors and Midwives:-

	Doctors & Parents.	Midwives.	Total.
No. of Births notified. ...	365	1062	1427
Percentage	26	74	-
No. of Medical Aid Forms received.	-	355	355
No. of still-births notified.	18	54	72

Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia Notified in 1941.

	No. of Cases Notified.	Treated at Home.	Wigan Infirmary.	Billinge Infirmary.	Private Nursing Home.	Result.
Puerperal Pyrexia.	5	4	1	-	-	All 5 recovered.

Municipal Midwives Service.

The number of cases attended by the Municipal Midwives during the year 1941 was 946, and the total number of confinements by all the Midwives in the town was 1116. The Service consists of a Supervisor and 12 Municipal Midwives. There are 8 Midwives in Private Practice.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

During the year 1941 there was one notified case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum. The case was treated at home and the result was vision unimpaired.

Results of Sunlight Treatment, (Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic).

	Under Treatment 1st. Jan. 1941.	New Cases.	Discharged. Cured.	Much Improved.	Ceased to Attend.	Under Treatment 31st. Dec. 1941.
Malnutrition.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rickets. ...	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debility. ...	-	2	-	-	-	2
Lupus. ...	-	1	-	-	-	1
Others. ...	2	3	-	-	-	2
	2	6	-	-	3	5

Welfare of the Blind.

In June 1933, Dr. Duthie, a Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon, was appointed for the examination of persons under the Blind Persons Act, and he examined 20 persons during 1941.

INDEX.

	Page.
Introductory...	1
Bacteriological Examinations.	7,10
Births...	2
Blind Welfare..	16
Canal Boats Act	6
Chemical Work..	9,10
Clinics; Attendances at M. & C.W.	15
Closet Accommodation.	5
Common Lodging Houses	5
Comparative Vital Statistics since 1876	3
Compensation Claims and Medical Examinations.	12
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops..	7
Death Rates ...	2
Disinfection and Disinfestation..	10
Drainage.	5
Entertainment Places.	6
Factories Act..	6
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act	9
Food Condemned.	8
Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act 1928.	9
Fried Fish Shops	9
Houses Let-in-Lodgings	5
Housing..	6
Ice Cream	7
Infectious Diseases..	11
" " Hospital	12
" " Notifications during 1939	12
Inquests.	3
Laboratory Work	12
Maternity and Child Welfare	15
" " " " Ante-Natal Scheme.	15,16
" " " " Attendances at Clinics..	15
" " " " Children's Act	15
" " " " Dental Treatment..	15
" " " " Maternal Mortality	15
" " " " Notification of Births..	16
" " " " Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	16
" " " " Puerperal Pyrexia.	16
" " " " Sunlight Treatment	16
" " " " Schools for Mothers	16
" " " " Work of Health Visitors.	16
Meat Inspection	7
Meat Purveyors.	8
Milk Supply ...	7
Nuisances.	5
Offensive Trades	5
Overcrowding...	6
Pharmacy and Poisons Act...	6
Public Assistance ...	3
Rats and Mice..	6
Refuse Disposal	5
Registrar General's List of Causes of Death..	4
Rivers and Streams...	5
Sanitary Inspection of the Area..	5
Scavenging.	5
Sewerage.	5
Shops Acts	6
Slaughterhouses	8
Smoke Abatement	5
Tuberculosis:..After Care..	13
" Artificial Pneumothorax.	13
" Pemberton Hospital	13
" Summary of Notifications.	13
" Sunlight Treatment	15
" Work of Dispensary	14
Uncertified Deaths...	3
Vaccinations...	10
Venereal Diseases ...	15
Vital Statistics	2
Water Supply...	10